

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11 DODE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

PA-04 H-03 DRC-01 /206 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1821

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMCONGEN CAPE TOWN

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T TAIPEI 3158

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, TW

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR TESTING

REF: STATE 104647

1. LOCAL REACTION: ALTHOUGH ROC MEDIA HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE
COVERAGE TO INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST, COMMENT HAS BEEN QUITE LIMITED.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS, IN ONLY EDITORIAL ON THE

SUBJECT THUS FAR, POINTED OUT PROLIFERATION COULD CHANGE OVERNIGHT DETERENT BALANCE WHICH HAS SO FAR PREVENTED NUCLEAR WAR. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED "IF NUCLEAR CLUB GROWS BIGGER, HOW CAN WE, NORTH KOREANS (SIC), SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND OTHER IMMINENTLY IMPERILED PEOPLE FAIL TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP CARD OF THEIR OWN?" GOVT HAS NOT ISSUED STATEMENT AND WE DO NOT EXPECT ONE. ONLY OTHER COMMENT SO FAR IS SINGLE SENTENCE IN TZU LI WAN PAO EDITORIAL ON CURRENT PHASE OF SINO-SOVIET CONFRONTATION: "EVERYONE KNOWS INDIA'S MARCH TOWARD NUCLEAR POWER IS ENTIRELY RESULT OF RUSSIA'S USING IT TO ENCIRCLE CHINESE COMMUNISTS."

2. GROC, WHICH DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDIA, UNLIKELY INDICATE ANY DISPLEASURE.

3. GROC HAS RATIFIED NPT. AT SAME TIME, AS DEPT AWARE, GROUPS WITHIN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY BUREAUCRACY HERE HAVE PUSHED FOR ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY AND TENTATIVE STEPS, MOSTLY COVERT, HAVE BEEN TAKEN TOWARD THAT END. INFLUENCE OF THESE GROUPS WILL PROBABLY INCREASE SOMEWHAT.

4. FIRM OPPOSITION OF USG, ALONG WITH FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED, HAVE BEEN PRINCIPAL BRAKE ON GROC IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS FIELD. ALTHOUGH ATTITUDE USG TAKES TOWARD INDIA WILL BE CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED, GROC IS QUITE AWARE THAT SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES EXIST BETWEEN THEIR OWN AND INDIAN SITUATIONS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS COMPLETE DEPENDENCE UPON US TO CARRY THROUGH TAIWAN POWER CO'S NUCLEAR POWER PLANS. ADDITIONAL CAREFUL MONITORING OF LOCAL SITUATION IS REQUIRED, AND IT MAY BE ADVISABLE AT SOME POINT EARLY ON TO SAY EXPLICITLY THAT INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST HAS NOT ALTERED OUR VIEW OF EXTREME INADVISABILITY OF ROC GOING THIS ROAD. NATURALLY, A STRONG STAND AGAINST PROLIFERATION IN GENERAL WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL.

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